

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07

NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04

SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 /085 W

-----014863 022140Z /75

O R 022037Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5589

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0521

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ECON, NU

SUBJECT: INDICATIONS OF ANTI-EMBASSY SENTIMENT AMONG SEGMENTS OF  
PRIVATE SECTOR

1. WE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN GETTING STRONG INDICATIONS OF DISPLEASURE  
AMONG SOME OF OUR PRIVATE SECTOR CONTACTS OVER THE EMBASSY'S STANCE  
VIS-A-VIS THE GENERAL STRIKE WHICH IS GRIPPING NICARAGUA. OUR BUSI-  
NESSMEN CRITICS, MANY OF WHOM ARE U.S. EDUCATED AND FROM PROMINENT  
AND WEALTHY FAMILIES, COMPLAIN THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IS STANDING  
ALOOF FROM THEIR STRUGGLE TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE SOMOZA GOVERNMENT.

2. WHEN EMBOFFS RESPOND THAT EMBASSY CANNOT PROPERLY INTERVENE IN  
NICARAGUA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THAT WE HOPE THE NICARAGUANS CAN  
SETTLE THEIR OWN POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN A CONSTITUTIONAL AND NON-  
VIOLENT MANNER, MANY OF OUR INTERLOCTORS EXPRESS STRONG DISAPPOINT-  
MENT. THEY HOLD THE US RESPONSIBLE FOR ENABLING THE SOMOZA FAMILY TO  
SEIZE POWER MORE THAN FORTY YEARS AGO AND FOR THE CONTINUATION OF  
THAT FAMILY'S RULE OVER NICARAGUA THROUGH MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID,  
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AND POLITICAL SUPPORT. IN VOICING THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT, SOME OF  
THESE DISGRUNTLED NICARAGUANS COMMENT THAT WHEN THEY EVENTUALLY WIN  
OUT OVER SOMOZA, THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FORGET THE "COOL" STAND  
THAT THE EMBASSY ESPOUSED.

3. ECON-COMMERCIAL SECTION COMMENT: SOME OF OUR MORE IMPORTANT  
SOURCES OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE ARE NOW TELLING US

THAT WE SHOULD NO LONGER COME TO THEM FOR INFO IN VIEW OF EMBASSY'S ALLEGEDLY UNHELPFUL ATTITUDE DURING PRESENT CRISIS. ALTHOUGH WE HOPE THAT SUCH REACTIONS ARE ONLY TRANSITORY, WE ARE NOT CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL SOON BE ABLE TO REESTABLISH ALL OF THE HELPFUL CONTACTS WE ENJOYED IN THE PAST. SINCE THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAS BEEN A MAIN DRIVING FORCE IN THE PRESENT CIVIL RESISTENCE CAMPAIGN, WE BELIEVE THAT A COMMON PERCEPTION AMONG IMPORTANT SEGMENTS OF THAT SECTOR TO THE EFFECT THAT THE EMBASSY IS STANDING ASIDE FROM THEIR STRUGGLE WITH THE SOMOZA REGIME COULD HAVE REPERCUSSIONS IN US-NICARAGUAN RELATIONS FAR BEYOND A MERE DRYING UP OF SOME VALUABLE SOURCES OF COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

4. POLITICAL SECTION COMMENT: THE PRIVATE SECTOR VIEWS REFLECT A GENERAL PROBLEM IN NICARAGUA. BECUASE OF THE POLARIZED VIEWS OF EDUCATED NICARAGUANS THERE IS NO POLICY OR ACTION WHICH THE EMBASSY CAN TAKE WHICH DOES NOT ANTAGONIZE SOMEONE. THE GON IS ANGRY WITH THE U.S. FOR WHAT IT VIEWS AS A PUNITIVE POLICY OF WITHHOLDING ASSISTANCE. THE OPPOSITION IS UNHAPPY THAT THE U.S. IS NOT ACTIVELY SUPPORTING ITS ANTI-SOMOZA CAMPAIGN. NEVERTHELESS, POLITICAL LEADERS APPEAR TO UNDERSTAND U.S. POLICY BETTER THAN THE RPRIVATE SECTOR PERSONS DESCRIBED ABOVE IN THAT ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNS OF DISAPPOINTMENT, THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS OF HOSTILITY IN THEIR CONTACTS WITH EMBOFFS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, ANTIAMERICAN FEELING, EMBASSIES  
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**Draft Date:** 02 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Subject:** INDICATIONS OF ANTI-EMBASSY SENTIMENT AMONG SEGMENTS OF PRIVATE SECTOR  
**TAGS:** PINT, ECON, NU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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